

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1, 3-4 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0001977; hereinafter Wang) in view of Linzer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,463,102; hereinafter Linzer) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wang, in view of Linzer, and further in view of Dimitrova et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,469,749) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wang, in view of Linzer, and further in view of Teicher et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,847,703) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

Wang teaches an apparatus and a method for preventing automated detection of television commercials (Title). Linzer

teaches a digital video compressor with border processor (Title). Dimitrova teaches automatic signature-based spotting, learning and extracting of commercials and other video content (Title). Teicher teaches a browsing system method and apparatus for video motion pictures (Title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides a method for processing a video signal. The method comprising the steps of (A) receiving the video signal comprising (i) a first segment having a series of frames wherein (a) each of the frames of the first segment has a first region and a second region and (b) the first region and the second region of the first segment define a first signature for each of the frames of the first segment and (ii) a second segment having a series of frames wherein (a) each of the frames of the second segment has a first region and a second region and (b) the first region and the second region of the second segment define a second signature for each of the frames of the second segment, (B) modifying each of the first signatures of the frames of the first segment to a third signature, where the first segment comprises a non-commercial program and (C) modifying each of the second signatures of the frames of the second segment to a fourth signature. Claims 11 and 13 provide similar limitations. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each of the claimed limitations.

In particular, claim 1 provides that a video signal has a first segment and a second segment. Claim 1 also provides that the first segment has a first region and a second region of each frame and that the first region and second region of the first segment define a first signature for each frame of the first segment. Claim 1 also provides that the second segment has a first region and a second region of each frame and the first region and the second region of the second segment define a second signature for each frame of the second segment. Wang is silent concerning a first region and a second region in each frame of first a first segment and a second segment of a video signal, as presently claimed. Wang is also silent concerning a first region and a second region of a first segment defining a first signature and a first and second region of a second segment defining a second signature, as presently claimed. At best, Wang teaches transition control data and parameters (see paragraph [0049] of Wang). Wang also teaches that these transition mode control data and parameters merely include information to determine which transition mode to use, parameters associated with the transition mode and content to be used for transition frames (see paragraphs [0050]-[0052]). Wang defines the transition modes to be mere fade, push, or slide transitions of frames between commercials (see paragraphs [00540]-[0059] of Wang). Wang does not teach that the transition control data and parameters are signatures defined by a first region and a

second region of a frame of a first segment of a video signal, as presently claimed. Nor does Wang, teach that the transition control data and parameters are second signatures defined by a first region and a second region of a frame of a second segment of a video signal, as presently claimed. Linzer does not cure the defects of Wang. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a video segment having a first region and a second region that define a signature for the frame, as presently claimed. As a result, the references do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, each of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 11, and 13 contain similar limitations. Therefore, claims 1, 11, and 13 are fully patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Wang appears to be silent regarding modifying each of the first signatures of the first segment to a third signature, where the first segment comprises a non-commercial program, as presently claimed. Wang is also silent concerning modifying a second signature of a second segment to a fourth signature, as presently claimed. At best, Wang teaches that commercial transition frames may be modified with the goal that they are undetectable. Wang does not teach modifying any frames other than the commercial transition frames. Wang does not teach or suggest modifying a first signature of each of the frames of the first segment comprising a non-commercial program, as presently claimed. Wang also does not teach modifying a second signature of

each frame of a second segment, but rather only teaches modifying the transition frames of the commercial programming. Since Wang does not teach or suggest first or second signatures of video frames it follows that Wang does not teach modifying first signatures to third signatures and second signatures to fourth signatures. Linzer does not cure the deficiencies of Wang. Therefore, the references, alone or in combination, do not teach each of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 11 and 13 contain similar limitations. As a result, claims 1, 11, and 13 are fully patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 is independently patentable over the references and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claim 5 provides the limitation that the frame is scaled to a first size. Claim 5 further provides the limitation that after scaling the frame the first region of each frame is equal to the size of each frame prior to scaling. Claim 5 then provides the limitation that the scaled frame is then cropped wherein the cropped frame comprises only the first region equaling the size of the frame prior to scaling. Wang is silent concerning scaling or cropping any of the frames. At best, Wang appears to teach modifying the transition frames of commercials. Linzer does not cure the deficiencies of Wang. Teicher does not cure the deficiencies of Wang and Linzer. At best, Teicher appears to teach cropping images to a smaller size for browsing video data. Teicher is silent concerning the cropped

image being the same size as the entire frame prior to the scaling and cropping of the frame. Furthermore, Teicher teaches that the scaled and cropped images are smaller than the size of the frame prior to the scaling and cropping since a number of sub-frames are displayed on the screen at the same time (i.e., 2x2, 3x3, 4x4) (see column 4, lines 58-64 and column 5, lines 30-35 of Teicher). The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each of the limitations of claim 5. As a result, claim 5 is fully patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12 and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims, which are now believed to be allowable.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

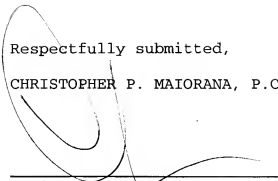
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

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